



News

Meet the 2005-2006
"Senior of the Year"
Nominees"

Puma Phonathon At a
Glance

Exploring "Exploring
Catholicism"

Features

The Job Market and
You: Learning to Cope
with Total Failure

Underworld: Evolution
Review

A Doll's House Doesn't
Play Around

Sports

Puma Track and Field
Begin Season

Super Bowl Recap

Famous Sports
Couples

Omega

Overheard

Fountain Stone Show
Times

Horoscopes



**SAINT
JOSEPH'S
COLLEGE**
INDIANA

Involved For Life



Left: Fragments of coal chunks that litter the campus during winter months. Right: The campus is blackened by residual piles of coal dust spread to prevent accidents and provide traction when ice is present. (Photos courtesy of K. Marxer).

Coal Dust: Winter Bane of SJC Student/Faculty Existence

By Kara Marxer, Staff Writer

As SJC hunkers down for these next six weeks of winter, SJC facilities says they are ready for whatever falls from the skies. So far this year, campus has seen a little snow, a lot of ice, and even some hail mixed in with what is otherwise an exceptionally mild winter.

Tony Baltes, Director of the Physical Plant, is always watching the weather. Whenever it gets bad, he says his staff is ready to go to work. "Everyone around here watches the weather. They know when to expect snow and ice. And when that happens, they're here early, sometimes as early as 4:30 or 5 in the morning to get the campus ready for when the students get up." When snow gets more than 2 inches deep and whenever the weather turns icy, the physical plant staff is prepared. Shovels and ice melt sit in the entrances to the public buildings waiting for use, the sweepers to clean the sidewalks drive the snow from all walkways, ramps, and steps, and snowplows rumble over the streets clearing whatever they can. The physical plant however uses several methods for clearing the streets, including spreading coal ash.

Coal ash is the remnants of the stoker coal used in the on-campus power plant that gives SJC electricity and heat. According to Bob Finkelman of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), coal ash is what is left after "organic compounds are largely volatilized from the coal combustion products." SJC uses coal ash as a way to provide traction for vehicles and as a way to melt the ice. "The dark color of the coal ash, whenever it's hit with sunshine or just light in general, soaks up the heat and melts the ice. It actually works faster than ice melt," says Baltes.

Not everyone agrees that coal ash is the way to deal with bad weather though. Mass Communications Professor Sally Nesselrode finds the soot to be

almost worse than the ice. "I understand that everyone's safety is a priority when it snows. And since I walk across campus to most of my classes, I appreciate the effort of trying to keep me from falling. However, while the black stuff may help with traction, it causes a huge mess across campus. It has stained the carpet in my car, has stained a pair of my shoes as well as the carpet in the radio station. I would like to see other options

for the students and housekeepers alike."

Not only is cleanliness a problem, coal ash is a waste product that can have some serious environmental effects if not carefully monitored. Trace elements in coal ash can include arsenic, mercury, lead, selenium, and zinc, but the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has concluded that coal ash is not a hazardous material because of the low concentration

sources from reaching drinking water," adds Brodman.

As for the official position from the USGS, Finkelman says, "There is no evidence that demonstrates that the coal ash used for road traction or for other uses has caused any health problems. One of the reasons is that in the US the coal used for the most part has low concentrations of the hazardous trace elements. Thus the resultant combustion products have relatively low concentrations, often no higher than the surrounding rocks and soils." In Michigan City, however, the EPA contacted 130 homes because of a connection to water wells contaminated by coal ash.

Because of the environmental risks, Brodman encourages recycling the coal ash into combustion byproducts which can be reused as a fuel source. "Environmentally, the best use of coal ash is to recycle it into a form that can be further used as fuel. Using it as fill or grit on ice is a waste of energy. I'm not sure what the best way to de-ice roads and walkways would be. For ice and snow, we have to consider that salt causes environmental problems too. If the heavy metal content of the coal ash is low, then it might be a lesser of two evils."

Vice President for Business Affairs Randy Freebourn says, "The College works hard to protect the environment...Salt can damage our sidewalks, our roads, and our vehicles while it can also be harmful to vegetation in large quantities; thus we want to minimize its use." He adds that he is not sure that coal ash would be harmful to the environment because coal is an organic compound, "primarily comprised of carbon." SJC conforms to all government regulation regarding the coal ash and no tests thus far have indicated any problems.



Above: The soot cakes parking lots and cars alike long after the snow and ice have melted. (Photo courtesy of K. Marxer).

explored to keep us safe during the winter," Nesselrode says.

Many students echo her sentiments. Junior Megan Ulrich agrees, "It makes your car really dirty and it makes your shoes really dirty too. I really don't like how you have to walk in it. It's just nasty." Likewise, Junior Erin Delaney thinks the coal ash does not help SJC's image. "I hate the soot. It's everywhere and it makes everything look so dirty and drab," notes Delaney. Even alumni wish there were another way to take care of the ice. SJC 2005 alumnus Jacob Lofgren concurs, "The black ash takes away from the real beauty of the campus in winter. It tracks all over the dorms and the public buildings and creates a real mess

of the heavy metals. However, the quality of the coal determines the toxicity says Biology Professor Robert Brodman.

"Some health and environmental experts have concluded even though heavy metal contaminants are usually in relatively low concentrations, any coal ash waste can have a negative impact on the environment if they are improperly managed. Thus, use of coal cinders as fill or grit on icy days, though a widely accepted practice in the past, can be a source of environmental liability today. It is especially important to prevent any of these trace elements that could be mobilized by rain or other water

Laugh It All Out of Your System

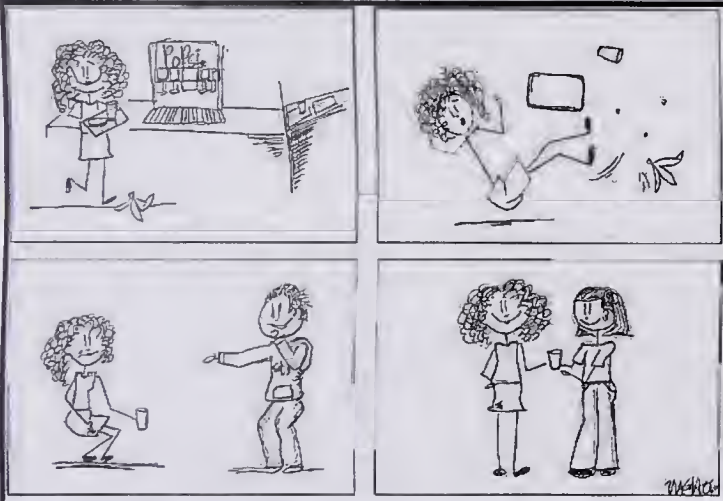
By Aimee Genova

When you walk into the cafeteria, you may hear complaints about the absence of fine cuisine or new seating arrangements. There is, however, a greater dilemma that seeps through the doors of the cafeteria and all other crevices of this campus—a lack of R-E-S-P-E-C-T. For some reason, people find it necessary to capitalize on the misfortunes of others by mocking them and jeering at them. The one classic example just happened to be seeing someone slipping on a random puddle of liquid in the cafeteria, and people purposely going out of their way to make the whole ordeal an entertaining fiasco.

Okay, so your best friend just happens to fall right next to the conveyer belt in front of a considerable amount of people. It is expected that some humor will arise out of the situation and that a number of people will ask if the fallen victim is all right. Though, I cannot help but notice that is usually not the case. A

few laughs here and there are quite expected, but when students in the cafeteria intentionally put that person on display to make him/her embarrassed, no respect is given. Let us be honest though—respect is not just refraining from laughing and publicly humiliating others. The problem goes a little bit deeper than that on our campus. Respect needs to be given those who dress extravagant everyday, wear sweats and jeans for any occasion, eat a little too many rice crispy treats at lunch, the quiet ones, the outspoken, the athletic, the educators, and all others. We live in an eclectic society, and it seems likemany aspects of diversity are almost shunned at this college. As clichéd as it seems, no person is absolutely perfect, still, it is difficult to just respect the differences and falters of others. Just remember, with every action a choice is made. What will be your next move?

Cartoon of Joe Schmo University



SJC Viewers Sum-Up
A Doll's House



"The players had great chemistry, and they put a lot of heart into their performance."
-Grace Rosanova

Photos by Marcy Harris



"[The players] had a great deal of energy, and people seemed to stay with [the play]. There was not a lot of rustling in the seats...so that is always a good sign."
-John Rahe



"Great expressiveness of emotion, you can really identify with the characters."
-Crystal Stines

How Well Do We Measure Up?

By Elizabeth Genova, *Opinion Editor*

Okay, I'll admit it—for a long time I held a grudge against this school for not being large enough, not having adequate facilities, and not really creating a social atmosphere I assumed a college should have. But, are my grudges justified? I've accepted my school for what it is, and enjoy the many fine qualities of it. I chose this small college in the middle of nowhere, but would my college life be exactly the same if I had chosen a similar institution in the Indiana region? In order to really appreciate what this school does have to offer over the competition, I evaluated my perceptions and experiences and the professional staff at the Admissions Office opened my eyes a little to what is unique here.

Let's start with the positives...With ONE-THOUSAND students and FIFTY-plus faculty members, technically that would average each teacher to about twenty students per classroom. But if you've attended a couple of classes here, it will not take long to find that it is not strange to have five or six people sitting in a room, and that's all. To me, that is pretty amazing. Not only do I have the benefit of knowing my teachers and fellow students in an intimate environment, if I want to joke around with a professor with a doctorate in his or her field, that's all right! You know why? Because there is not a teacher's assistant preventing direct interaction between my questions and the professor's thoughts. The faculty here will bend over backwards for every student, and the Core Program, Career Development Center, and Athletics Department are invaluable assets to Saint Joseph's College.

Although the faculty is not the only benefit of a Saint Joseph's College education, I would like to examine the college's shortcomings as well. Let's compare our facilities with those of other small liberal arts colleges in the area. Institutions such as Manchester College with approximately the same class sizes and a student body of approximately 3,000 have 24-hour computer labs inside every dormitory, and the library at

Manchester has the luxury of being a complete building of its own...revolutionary concept, I know! All right, you may be thinking it is unfair to compare different private liberal arts institutions because every school has different focuses. Through careful examination, though, one finds that all three schools cherish similar values--small classes, teachers with experience, religious and moral exploration, and a well-rounded education. Although the smaller details may vary among colleges, when institutions have been open as long as Saint Joseph's College or even for a shorter amount of time, they should not have surpassed us in what they offer to the students.

Schools such as DePauw pour money into honors programs and their own version of a Core Program, but somehow their campus has thirty-six major buildings with only twice the number of students. And the international influence on both the Manchester and Depauw campuses are overwhelming with campus-wide events like "International Night" where the students from places like the West Bank and France gather and mingle with American students.

Tuition for all three schools is comparable, so where is Saint Joseph's College's money going? With virtually no foreign languages program, a combined gymnasium/art studio building (which is convenient for when I want to paint AND pump iron simultaneously), and no plans to expand growth of the student population, our school appears to be behind these two other institutions.

Some of you may question why I go here if I find conditions so sub-par, and that's a valid question. I greatly value the education I am receiving, and I try to jump on every opportunity that presents itself. I just hope all the readers in the college community consider that there is always room for improvement. Your money and presence is the backbone of this institution, and this school's purpose is to fulfill your educational needs.

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Opinions

Do you agree, disagree, or have mixed opinions on the issues discussed in the *Observer*?

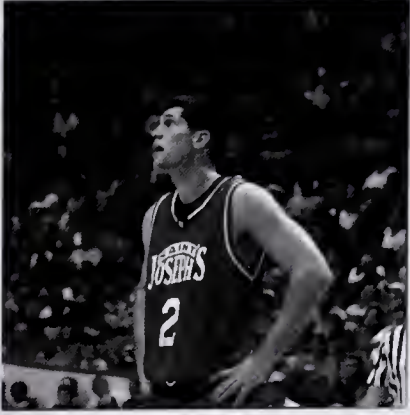
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“Senior of the Year” Candidates Speak on Nominations, SJC

By Kara Marxer, Staff Writer

(photos courtesy of H. Mikus, B. Schoen, K. Marxer)



The annual Bernie A. Balas Senior of the Year Award nominees were announced on January 18. The nominees are: Biology-Chemistry major Heather Mikus, Biology-Chemistry major David Didion, Art major Jackie Inkrott, Physical Education major Blake Schoen, and Business Administration major Adam DeBeck. Each nominee had to have at least a 3.25/4.00 GPA, having successfully passed 105 credit hours. Out of 73 eligible seniors, the senior class voted for these five candidates. The Observer spoke with the candidates about their nominations.

How do you feel about being nominated for Senior of the Year?

Heather Mikus: I feel extremely honored to be nominated by my peers. I am very excited, but at the same time I am very sad because this means that we really are seniors and graduation is

approaching very quickly.
Blake Schoen: I feel very honored about being nominated. It's a great honor and I'm really grateful to my peers.
Jackie Inkrott: Being nominated was a surprise, but a good one. It makes me feel that maybe I have been a good role model for what my peers would like to see in someone leading their class, which is always nice to hear.
Adam DeBeck: Being nominated was quite a surprise, however it a nice feeling to think that so many of my peers regard me as a leader of our class.
David Didion: I was surprised to be nominated, but it is definitely an honor.
Why do you think you were nominated?
Schoen: I'm a friendly person, who is really easy to get

along with. I like to think that I have a good sense of humor.
Didion: I honestly don't know why I was nominated, but I suppose there must be a few people who deemed me worthy for nomination.
Inkrott: Well, I'm hoping that I was nominated because my peers feel that I'm a good example of a hard-working student. But there are so many students like that out there—I was just lucky enough to have been chosen.
DeBeck: Throughout my four years at SJC I have made every effort to maximize the college experience by making lasting friendships, and getting involved. My friends know that my room is theirs, and that their problems are my problems. I try to live up to the ideals of community that SJC

promotes to all prospective students.
Mikus: I do not know why I was nominated. There are many other seniors who deserve this nomination more than I do. All of the seniors are seniors of the year. We have an awesome class!
What have you liked most about your experience at SJC?
Inkrott: As I'm sure most who have experienced SJC would say, the best part about this school is the people. Small town, sure, but when it comes down to it, it's the people that make any experience worth being a part of.
DeBeck: If I had my college career to do over again, I highly doubt I would change any portion of it. Amid highs and lows, SJC has been a place of immense personal and spiritual growth for me

and I owe these experiences to the students, faculty, and staff of this college.
Didion: What I have liked most about SJC is the ability to know as many people as you want to, and when it comes to education, you are not just a number in a crowded lecture room.
Mikus: It is absolutely impossible to choose one experience that tops them all. Obviously not all memories are part of the perfect SJC experience, but each has helped me to grow and learn more about myself and others.
Schoen: I like the fact that I'm able to get to know a lot of about students. Also, I've been able to develop close relationships with my friends.
The Observer would like to congratulate the nominees on their nominations!

SJC Kicks Off Annual Puma Phonathon With \$100,000 Goal

By Melissa Piskula, Staff Writer

On February 5th, Saint Joseph's College began its annual SJC Puma Phonathon, which will continue every evening through February 23rd. The SJC Puma Phonathon tops the list of the college's top fundraisers and so far, things seem to be looking up by the responses received compared to last year's Phonathon. The college's goal is to collect over \$100,000 from alumni, parents, and friends of the College. All involved are hoping that this goal will be reached. Over 250 faculty and students will be volunteering their time in order for Saint Joseph's College to earn the amount established as its goal.
Steve Brady, head of Institutional Advancement and Marketing, commented, "This is the second year that our faculty will be volunteering their time. Our faculty does a great job. This allows them to reconnect with former students that they may have lost touch with, as well as meeting those who are new to Saint Joseph's."
"By having the students call up former alumni of the college,

they are giving alumni a chance to keep in touch with all that's going on around campus. We here at St. Joe realize that not everyone is able to check the website everyday for the latest information after leaving the campus. With the students calling them, the alumni are able to find out what's happening," Brady added.
Many students on campus may be unaware just how much we, and the college, benefit from the Phonathon. All the money raised is applied to our scholarships, financial aid, the cost of library books, and sports equipment. The money is also used to fund guest speakers, campus events and athletic trips as well.
The college hopes that people affiliated with the campus in general realize how important this fundraiser is and how much they are affected by the outcome. What the Puma Phonathon tends to do is fill the gap between funds and tuition. The Board of Trustees do what they can to help encourage donations with what they refer to as the "Chairmen's Challenge." Brady explained,

"The Chairmen's' Challenge is a challenge from the current, former and past chairmen of the Board of Trustees to encourage the faculty to be a part of the Phonathon. The Chairmen will match, dollar-for-dollar, every gift the faculty raises on Monday, February 6th up to \$10,000. Last year, faculty raised over \$17,000 in a single night and we're hoping to break that record this year."
Students and faculty will be calling all those affiliated with Saint Joe's asking if they would like to donate unless they have already made a contribution online. If you know someone who would be interested in making a donation towards the SJC Phonathon, simply direct them to the website (www.saintjoe.edu) for more information on how they can take part in this highly important fundraising campaign.
For more information about the Phonathon, call 1-800-227-1898.

A Look At “Exploring Catholicism”

By Becky Scherer, Director of Publications and Media Relations

In an effort to emphasize faith education, Saint Joseph's College has begun offering public discussion groups entitled "Exploring Catholicism" with each session focusing on a different theme or question of the Catholic faith. Students and community members of all ages and faiths are invited to attend and participate at monthly meetings held in the Saint Joseph's Chapel Gaspar Center.
Rev. Jeffrey Kirch, SJC Chaplain and Instructor of Religion, spearheaded the creation of the "Exploring Catholicism" group discussions and modeled the program from one he implemented at the University of Chicago while pursuing graduate degrees at Chicago's Catholic Theological Union. "We need to help students learn about their faith from an adult perspective rather than maintaining an eighth grade understanding of religious education," he said. "In an open community setting, more questions will arise, and we've already held discussion groups concerning questions of the Eucharist and difference between Catholicism and Protestantism."

SJC freshman Biology major Kyle Rush, a participant in both of the "Exploring Catholicism" discussions that have taken place thus far, found them to be interesting and enlightening to his faith. "They remind people that you don't have to be Catholic to come to SJC. These discussion groups are beneficial for anyone who wants to learn more about their own faith or is just curious about a different one," he said.
Although "Exploring Catholicism" is in its first year of existence at SJC, Kirch hopes to keep the discussions alive for quite some time. "Ultimately, I'd like to turn the program over to the students," he began. "I want to become more like a faculty advisor and make 'Exploring Catholicism' a permanent Campus Ministry program. I'll help them make contacts and do some of the planning, but ultimately it will be the students who follow through with everything." Discussion topics so far have included the Church's role in public life and social justice and the ethics of stem cell research. The next "Exploring Catholicism" session is Feb. 26.

Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



Colin Meloy loses friends, poses with entrance sign instead. If only he could read. (Photo courtesy of http://alyssagallery.com/bands/the_decemberists/images/prevs/01.jpg)

Colin Meloy Covers Shirley Collins Poorly, Gives up Touchdown

Colin Meloy, front man of the Decemberists, returned to the road for his second annual winter solo tour. Just as he did last winter, he released an EP of covers only available to those who attended his concert. Last winter his EP release was full of Morrissey covers, but this time around, he decided to cover a less familiar artist: Shirley Collins.

For those who are unfamiliar with Shirley Collins, she is what many deem to be one of the most pivotal figures in folk music. Performing with her sister Dolly, the pair was able to bring a fresh view of folk to the music scene. Meloy had been a longtime fan of Collins. To show his affection, Meloy decided he should cover her, and thus he recorded five songs to be put on a new EP.

Meloy's versions of Collins' songs are nothing out of the ordinary. While Meloy's own style carries over into the covers, he does little experimentation with them. On the song "Barbra Allen," he does try to incorporate a harder sound to the song. Instead of merely using an acoustic guitar, he adds an electric guitar, doubling the sound. On the song "Charlie," Meloy gets a little help from Chris Funk, a fellow Decemberists, and Carson Ellis, Meloy's girlfriend, whose art work is donned on this EP and the album covers of the

Decemberists. On the song "I Drew My Ship," Meloy sings unaccompanied. He manipulates his voice to provide different timbres to tell a story in a very Decemberists-esque way. While the EP is not necessarily something someone may want to write about to their pen pal in Peru, it still has spark that any Decemberists or Shirley Collins fan would find charming.

The EP, however, isn't very easily obtainable unless a patron of one of his concerts gets you a copy or you have a decent amount of money and buy one on Ebay. Meloy did, however, decide to print 4,000 additional EPs. Since his band's last effort, *Picaresque*, their success and popularity had grown so much that he decided to accommodate his new fan base. In addition to printing more EPs, Meloy and the rest of his bandmates have just bid adieu to Kill Rock Stars, their longtime recording label and have said hello to a better-known label, Capitol Records. Meloy has assured fans that this leap into the realm of a major record label is not going to affect their music in any way, but only time will tell. He is currently working on a new album and getting ready for fatherhood. He and his longtime girlfriend, Carson Ellis, are expecting their first child in the spring.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:
Originality: 7
Lyrics: 6
Lasting Appeal: 6
Album Cover: 8.5
Total: 7/10

Vampire Film Thrills Critics, Avoids Bad Pun About Sucking

By Katherine Stembel, Staff Writer

I walked into *Underworld: Evolution* quivering with excitement and I walked out ready to join a vampire cult and start sucking away on some jugulars. In other words, I was not disappointed.

This was a quality sequel and, although it had significantly more blood and decapitations, it was nothing more than I would expect for a vampire-werewolf war movie. The film had the same dark, gritty feel and Selene remains the heroine, saving Michael repeatedly. There was plenty of gunfire, romance, and even some nudity for the moviegoer uninterested in vampire-lycan coven duels, but more interested in Scott Speedman's backside.

Underworld: Evolution picks up right where the previous film left off with the blood feud between vampires and werewolves (lycans) becoming personal. Selene, (Kate Beckinsale) the alluring but icy vampire Death Dealer, and Michael Corvin, (Scott Speedman) the loyal human turned werewolf turned hybrid vampire-lycan, discover the two bloodlines' histories, interwoven



Kate Beckinsale stays fit by drinking blood, killing werewolves, and crying her way out of speeding tickets. (Photo courtesy of <http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=hv&id=1808640591&cf=pg&photoid=585982&intl=us>)

with Selene's own past. Selene's one-time mentor, Viktor, (Bill Nighy) is dead and she must hunt for the last coven elder, Marcus (Tony Curran). However, Marcus is on a mission of his own: to unlock his lycan brother and create a stronger hybrid race.

The movie boils down to one thing: dysfunctional families can cause warfare between thousands

of immortals. As a father, one has to be willing to take out one or both of his sons when the boys get a bit blood lusty and threaten to destroy humanity.

Sound confusing? Yeah, probably, but while the tedium of reviewing the first movie's history could have been wearing on any moviegoer, the director, Len Wiseman, (Kate Beckinsale's husband) skillfully pulled off the feat through short, spread-out flashback sequences and direct, explanatory monologue. Meanwhile, he stealthily introduced an entire cast of brand-new characters, and subsequently killed them off. The seasoned *Underworld* fan revisits their favorite characters for a few, brief

moments, and heralds a set of new vampires and lycans. The flick ends with the promise of a third episode, perhaps involving a vampire-lycan hybrid baby, conceived the old-fashioned way. Needless to say, I'm pumped. So see *Underworld: Evolution* for the love of vampires, romance, or Scott Speedman.

Dawson's Creek is Still Around

By BJ Houlding, Staff Writer

I don't want to wait for this article to be over... Not sure what this article is about yet? *Dawson's Creek*, that's what. Now, I know you're thinking that this is a bit out of the box for BJ judging from the uber-nerdy articles he's been writing all year. I mean, seriously, *Dawson's Creek*? That's weak, you're saying. It's the most emasculating show ever. Well my friends, six months ago I would've surely agreed with you and jumped right on the "Screw *Dawson's Creek*" bandwagon. But since then a friend of mine introduced me to the show, and I admit it has its moments.

The show is a chronicle of four friends beginning in their freshman year of high school. It follows the trials and tribulations of Pacey, Joey, Jen, and of course Dawson as they deal with life and relationships. "But what is the appeal of the show?" you might ask. Well let me ask you a few questions in return. Have you ever been in love? Have you ever been the new kid in town? Have you ever had a crush on a teacher? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then this show has situations for you. All of this and more happen in just the first season.



The cast of *Dawson's Creek* plays red rover against oncoming traffic. Life insurance rocks. (Photo courtesy of <http://tv.yahoo.com/tvpdb?d=tv&id=1807777810&cf=ph&pgid=1808438524&photoid=448938&pid=0>)

Now the show isn't without its faults. Even for a mushy romantic like me the show has a little too much drama. Seriously, by the middle of the third episode it's painfully evident that Dawson and Joey belong together [Editor's note: Joey is apparently a girl], but it takes until the end of the season for them to realize this and finally act on it. Also, it often seems that the material is hackneyed. The episode

"Detention" is meant to be a *Breakfast Club* parody, but it really comes off as more of a direct rip-off. *Dawson's Creek* has enough in terms of both merits and flaws to create pundits on both sides. While it's a good watch, it's certainly not for the casual viewer. However, this writer suggests you step into their world of drama and excitement. Overall, 4 Smurfs out of 5.



The Job Market and You: Learning to Cope with Total Failure

By Joe Larson, Co-Editor in Chief

It has come to my attention that some college students have an irrational fear about not finding a good job after graduation. The truth of the matter is that most graduates will find fulfilling careers in the fields of their choice as long as their chosen field is unemployment and their idea of fulfilling is being mauled to death by wild dogs. Remember, you are competing for your dream job against other college graduates, and these other graduates are better than you in every way. They are bigger, smarter, more aerodynamic, and use a better-smelling shampoo than you can even imagine. If you had an internship, they started a little company known as Google, and if you won a contest, they annexed Poland. If your parents had a choice and a time machine, they would go back to the past and smother you to death just so they could raise these other graduates as their own. Fortunately, there is hope – as long as your parents don’t actually have a time machine. Your over-qualified competitors can be defeated if you dominate the résumé and interview process through careful planning and blatant falsifications. As far as morals go, employers expect you to lie, just like they expect you to defecate in the lobby after an interview. It’s called manners, people. For those who still aren’t convinced, writing a résumé isn’t so much about lying as it is about making up facts that aren’t true and then using those untrue facts

to your advantage. There’s a big difference.

I’ll walk you through the process of earning the perfect job using the example of John Everyman. According to his résumé, John is a business major with a minor in being awesome and a GPA of cube. Employers will accept these facts without explanation. Let’s move on to John’s credentials.

Leadership Experience: • President of the College Overachievers Society. • Commanded a battalion during the Crimean War. • Briefly toured with the Spice Girls. • Organized a canoe trip for a local youth group. There were no survivors.

John Everyman has four solid leadership credentials, but his average competitor will have at least a 68. If he hopes to gain ground, he’ll have to do it with his charity work.

Volunteer Work: • Saved the pope’s life by catching a bullet in teeth. Spit bullet back at the would-be assassin, killing him instantly. • Ended world hunger. • Volunteered two hours a week at Happy Oakes Nursing Home. There were no survivors.

John wiped out starvation and the elderly. Double points for him. He just needs a strong finish in the miscellaneous category to complete the perfect résumé.

Major Accomplishments: • Once got a toaster stuck in rectal cavity. It took three surgeons and a civil engineer ten hours to get it out. There were no survivors.



Mom? (Photo courtesy of http://us.st11.yimg.com/store1.yimg.com/U/usappliance_1881_12758726)

That category is pretty much finished with one entry. Bonus points if the toaster was plugged in the whole time.

At this point, John has established himself as an ambitious go-getter with unlimited potential and homicidal tendencies. The only thing left to establish is his status as a minority since being a white male makes you about as employable as a child molester. John is half Pacific Islander, half Maytag appliance – a mixed race that can only be created when a man loves a microwave in all the wrong ways. He is in such a minority that even Native Americans and gay crippled pygmies oppress him on a daily basis. Employers are obliged by law to hire him to make up for centuries of institutionalized racism against man-microwave love children. John can still screw up this perfect arrangement, however, if he botches the interview process.

The key to a good interview is eye contact, and by eye contact, I mean a stare of death that seriously calls into question whether or not you still have the capacity to blink. To make the

process easier, John pretends that the interviewer’s head is made of boobs. When John slips and fails to maintain his glare of death, he calmly explains to the interviewer that he was too distracted by the interviewer’s massive rolls of neck fat to even see his eyes. It works every time.

The reason that most college graduates are doomed to unemployment is that landing a job requires an amazing falsified résumé, a rare ethnic heritage, impressive boob-imagining skills, AND the ability to communicate ideas verbally. Employers want to hear your plan to make their company a success, and John Everyman has a good one to improve Generic Telecommunications Company, Inc. Cockfights are illegal because roosters are protected by laws against animal cruelty, but there are no such laws protecting children. John’s idea is to put children in a ring and let them fight to the death, but instead of fighting with razorblades tied to their legs, the kids will fight with hand grenades and possibly power tools. The idea will make money and protect animals.

Everybody wins, including the two children since one of them is badly-mangled but still alive and the other one threw the fight.

For the rest of the interview, John just kind of zones out. Every time there is an awkward silence, John says something like “diversify your portfolio” and “balls!” Eventually, even these witticisms won’t keep the conversations going, and the interview will come to an end. The final stage is a firm handshake and an exchange of business cards. John doesn’t have a business card, but he does have gonorrhea. He informs his employer of as much at this time. Also, instead of shaking the interviewer’s hand, John headbutts him in the face.

It should be obvious by this point that John gets the job since he is by far the most qualified applicant for anything ever. Most of the rest of us have not commanded battalions in the Crimean War or wiped out an entire youth group on a canoe trip, so we have to start building the non-falsified portions of our résumé now while we still have time. Even this will probably not guarantee a good job because employers have a strict order in which they hire certain categories of applicants. The list of most hireable to least hireable reads as follows: people in India; robots; better-qualified graduates; robot Indians; cadavers; large dogs; you. The only hope you have is to mate with household appliances so that your freakishly deformed children will be more employable than yourself.

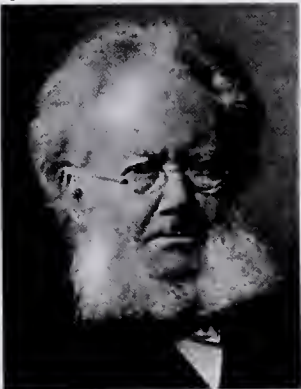
A Doll’s House Doesn’t Play Around

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

It was a quiet, intimate setting on opening night of the Columbian Players’ latest theatrical endeavor, Henrik Ibsen’s classic social drama *A Doll’s House*. The subdued evening, amplified by the play’s starch-collared Victorian character, was certainly upset by the tumultuous subterfuge surrounding Nora’s journey of enlightenment as she came to terms with her subservience to her misogynistic husband in addition to her indulged childishness.

The story revolves around Nora Helmer, a woman who first appears to be a childish plaything for her husband, Torvald, to command. The audience then discovers that Nora saved her husband’s life, only to be put down by her husband, attacked by her lender (and Torvald’s subordinate, Krogstad), and even hit on by a family friend, Dr. Rank. Finally, Nora sees that there is no other way but out from such an oppressive society and thus leaves her husband and even her children in order to discover herself and what she is capable of.

Obviously, a story such as this cannot rely on action alone. The focus is primarily—almost singularly—on the dialogue; therefore, an all-around incredible cast is necessary to



Before becoming a playwright, Ibsen was a mall Santa. He was fired when it was discovered that his beard impaled small children. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.severskelisty.cz/kultura/ibsen3.jpg>)

keep an audience’s attention and to keep the flow moving in this exceptionally lengthy play. This was what a very grateful audience got. First and foremost, the male principle characters in the cast managed to be very compelling and ran the gamut of character interpretations. Chris Moran remained very faithful to a traditional portrayal of the belittling Torvald, while David Santangelo (playing Dr. Rank) added a little sexual tension into the mix that is perhaps less innocent than a straight textbook interpretation would find. David Spencer’s Krogstad managed to take on a very modern view of Krogstad, almost taking on a serial killer’s self-serving mindset, complete with heavy breathing.

The women of the play, though, came center stage, as

Ibsen undoubtedly intended, and shined through the glum Norwegian atmosphere. Jessica Harris’ Nora was exquisite; not only did she manage a good balance of childishness and Victorian propriety, but she also seemed to really bring her character’s psychology to the forefront, particularly at the end when Nora takes charge of her own life. Jean Monfort’s portrayal of Christine played foil to the vibrant Nora as a ghost-like, almost Dickensian image. The feminine camaraderie between the two characters seemed to always remind the audience that this was why they were there.

The cast was rounded out with exceptionally appropriate and well-carried performances by Marcie Keyes as the children’s keeper, Heather Madden as the maid, and B.J. Houlding as the porter. And of course, the Helmer children, played by Patrick, Samantha, and Megan Massoels, brought a bright patch to Ibsen’s inherently slow script. Certainly, without them, the play would have been very difficult to take in all at once.

All in all, the production was well-made and extremely intense and will hopefully pave the way for similar hard-hitting, deeply involving drama on the Columbian Players’ stage.

Tao Te Ching Who?

By Melissa Alba, Staff Writer

To be quite honest, I had some difficulty writing a review about *Tao Te Ching* by Stephen Mitchell since the book and its contents have had profound effect on my life.

Tao Te Ching consists of 81 poetic verses of ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu’s teachings. These teachings have been translated by Dr. Robert Alan Dale, who has added his own creativity to the text. His commentary combines the ancient wisdom of Lao Tzu with new insights and applies them to twenty-first-century social crises. The commentary itself promotes optimism about our future that readers will find thoroughly enjoyable.

Lao Tzu’s unorthodox approach to issues became more real for me in Dale’s translation. This edition triggers new ways of thinking about issues such as overcoming fear, rejecting unnecessary possessions, and regaining lost morality. It also explains methods of acquiring wisdom, obtaining satisfaction in life, understanding effort, and gaining control of blame and guilt.

Lao Tzu’s teachings are both simple and complex. As the Lao Tzu explains in verse 47 from *Going Beyond*, “We can understand the world as it is



This book is probably filled with words and small text-based monsters. (Photo courtesy of http://www.harpercollins.com/global_scripts/product_catalog/book_xml.asp?isbn=0060955430&tc=img)

without leaving our home. We can understand the world as it might be without peering dreamily out our window.” This passage is a perfect example of how the text is both simple and complex – you can understand the words without realizing that you do.

This edition also has captivating black and white photographs by John Cleare that accompany each of the 81 verses. Readers can complete this book in one sitting, but it may be better to enjoy the text at a more relaxed pace, such as reading one verse a day.

Tao Te Ching is a good book. I recommend that you give Lao Tzu an hour of your time and have four cups of chai tea with him.

Challenges Can't Stop Men's Tennis

By Erika Osborne, Staff Writer

Like many Puma sports teams the men's tennis team is also going through some changes. Not only did they get a new coach, Reggie Sanderson, but they also have had to adjust to the loss of a vital player, junior John Simon, who is completing an internship this semester. With one season under his belt coaching the girls' team, Sanderson is well prepared for his first men's season. Senior Ryan Hendrickson puts it simply, "having a new coach is an advantage to us." Junior Nathan Burton agrees, "He has created an excitement that we have been lacking. He has brought a new way of doing things that I think will help us."

The guys have been working hard in their off-season, concentrating on their footwork. With the absence of Simon, as well as, Walter Manino and Dru Kitchell, everyone is going to have to step up to fill those shoes. Burton feels that the team is different from last year's team because "last year we weren't in as good of shape as we probably should have been. We have run a lot more this year, which should help improve our stamina." But like every team they have both strengths and weaknesses. Hendrickson feels that one of the strengths is "team spirit." Burton believes that a weakness is "that we only have four returning players from last season, also we do not have as much depth as we have in the past." He also counted as a strength, "the positive change in attitude we have this year, everything is more serious than it was before."

Hendrickson said that he is most looking forward to the first match of the season. Burton commented, "I would say I'm looking forward to the Lewis match the most. This is the first conference match and will give us a good idea of where we stand." He continued with a prediction that it will be a tough season. However, it could be successful if the team continues to work hard.

The men's first home match and season opener is February 26th at 10 a.m. against Alma. "We would be grateful if more people would come out and watch us, everyone plays harder with more people watching," Burton commented. Hendrickson asked for support from the student body in a more sarcastic manner, "If SJC athletics were a 400 pound mountain gorilla, men's tennis would be the chest. Come check us out."



Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you.
-Satchel Paige

Steelers Win Super Bowl XL 21-10



“One Heart Beat,” New Mantra for Pumas

By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College baseball team is once again about to embark on what it hopes will be another memorable season. Last season saw the Pumas win forty-two games, the second highest in school history, while reaching national status with rankings that went as high as number ten in the nation.

The loss of eight key seniors may hurt the Pumas, who are ranked twenty-second in the nation going into the season. Key losses on the pitching side include All-American Mike Stitz, record setting closer Adam Zimmerman, eighth inning specialist Marc Schroeder, as well as starter Russ Karas. The losses do not just affect the pitching staff, however, as the Pumas also lost four starters on offense in Bo Gum, Sean McBride, Scott Gardner, and Scott Smolek.

With this loss of manpower, it would be easy for the casual fan to assume that the Pumas chance to shine was last year; but for anyone associated with Puma baseball, they know expectations this season are at an all-time high. Ironically enough, this also marks the ten year anniversary of the team that went to Montgomery, Alabama, and finished second in the entire nation.

The Pumas also return many major players who saw lots of action last season and were a big part of the reason that the Pumas were only two games away from the College World Series in 2005. With six starters from last year returning to the line-up and four of the top six starting pitchers returning, as well as the recruiting of instant impact players from junior colleges and high schools, the Pumas might

Puma Track and Field at the Starting Line

By Andrew Costello, Staff Writer

The Puma track and field teams have begun yet another season filled with many expectations and hope for an elusive conference championship. Both the men's and the women's teams are prepped to bring home the Sear's Memorial Trophy on February 25th at the 2006 Great Lakes Valley Conference Indoor Track Championships.

The women's team looks to capture its first indoor track and field championship in school history. This endeavor seems more feasible after one considers how the team lost only two seniors from last year's squad. The women look to be strong in the field events behind sophomore jumpers Kylie Swisher, Mardee Hresil, Tasha Kinsey, and Brittany Bertsche, shot putters Natasha Mills (sophomore) and Erin Salinas (junior), and junior pole vaulter Allison Chappell. In the sprinting department, senior captain Amy Baird leads a versatile offensive with junior Kat Sherburne and freshman sensation Lydia Thompson. Sophomores Ashley Moore, Danielle Stockmaster, and Kim Woodruff, along with junior captain Jordan Henley look to make some noise for the distance squad, while the dynamic senior duo, Jackie Inkrott and Amanda Stoops, tear the hurdles off the track. The women finished a respectable 4th last year at the Indoor Championships at Wabash, but are hopeful that their national ranking of 20th will carry them to the promised land.

The men's team has similar

promise. Producing a plethora of experienced veterans (all but three have returned), the Pumas look to ride senior leadership and produce its first indoor championship since 1999. The distance crew of junior Joe King, junior captain Andy Van de Hey, and sophomore Ryan Hall, look to be very potent in the 3000 and 5000 meter races. Junior captain Eric Fleming and sophomore Matt Leonardo will be expected to get crucial points in the mile and half mile events. Senior captain Caleb Branam, along with sophomore Walter Moton and newcomer Keshawn King lead the sprinting squad, while junior Eric Kramer, and senior captain Brant Schmid will hurdle the competition. Finally, sophomore shotputters Kyle Lawson and Aaron Ruter will anchor the field while seniors Kurt Laurinaitis and Wes Murray will jump over any obstacles. The men are also ranked 20th in the nation.

The Pumas have competed in two invitationals, and have set the ground for a productive season. The women won the Chicago Invitational at the University of Chicago, while the men finished second behind power house Augustana on January 21. Both teams also showed promise at the Robert Eubanks Invitational at Grand Valley State University, setting themselves up for a solid performance at last weekend's 2006 Hoosier Relays at Indiana University in Bloomington. The Pumas then head to the DePauw and Chicagoland championships before heading to the GLVC Championship meet.

not only be ready for another title run, but they might be better equipped.

That is where this year's theme for the Pumas comes in: "One heart beat." When asked what this meant, Assistant Coach Kurich explained, "We have forty-two individuals on this team and while individual success will be remembered for a short time, it is the team success that will be remembered much longer. Because of this, every member of the team must share the same goal in order for us to accomplish it. It does not take just nine players, but instead all forty-two parts of the team need to come together in order to reach our goal: Montgomery, Alabama (site of the World Series)."

This joining together of the team started a few weeks ago when the baseball team was subjected to "Hell Week."

Besides showing up at the Rec Center at 4:30 a.m., while most students were still in bed, the team faced grueling tasks that not only pushed the players physically, but also mentally. In the end, this truly brought the team together because if everyone watches each other struggle for five days, nobody is willing to give up. This is indicative of what is needed on the field, with a "never say die" attitude that is required to get through a 50+ game schedule in a few months.

If the Pumas hope to return to Montgomery this season they will have to improve on what they accomplished last season. The new season is imminent, making expectations higher than ever, but has not won them anything thus far. If the team is going to return they must do it: one run, one win, and most importantly, one heart beat at a time.

Editor's Picks to Click: Famous Sports Couples



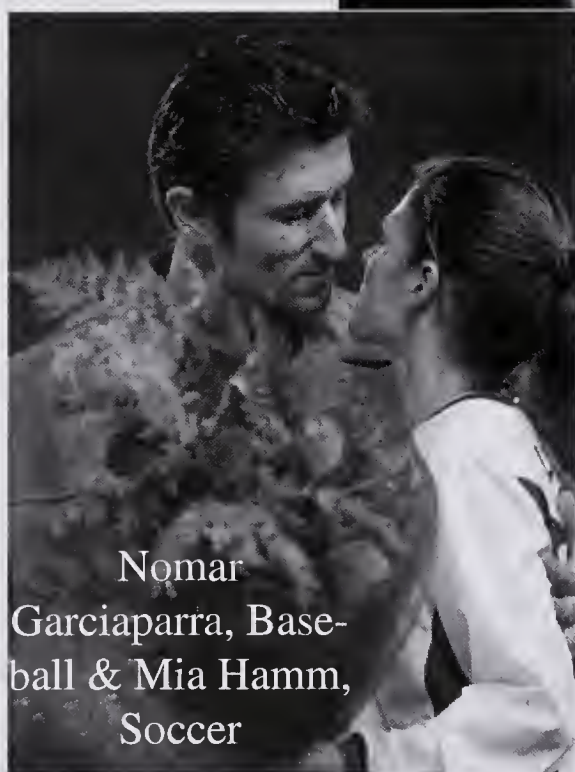
Casey Daigle, Minor League Baseball & Jennie Finch, Softball



Happy Valentine's Day from the Sports Staff!



Andre Agassi & Steffi Graff
Tennis



Nomar Garciaparra, Baseball & Mia Hamm, Soccer

Scott Erickson, Baseball & Lisa Guerrero, Sportscaster

Jake Plummer, NFL & Kollette Klassen, Cheerleader

Matt Treanor, Baseball & Misty May, Volleyball

A.J. Feeley, NFL & Heather Mitts, Soccer



Kristi Yamaguchi, Figure Skating & Bret Hedican, NHL

Somebody is Not Getting a New TV for Valentine's Day!

By Elizabeth Kloeck, Columnist

The ESPN ticker. Though it is a fount of information, in my opinion, most of it is useless; I don't care about tennis, hockey, basketball, auto racing, and I might even add golf into the mix despite my affection for it. Football and baseball are the only important things that roll across the bottom of that *SportsCenter* infested screen. Although a good piece of gossip on who was arrested etc. is appreciated regardless of athletic affiliation.

I don't feel, however, that the ticker is the be-all and end-all of the ESPN experience. Let me put it to you this way, how important is the bottom left corner of a television screen to the ticker phenomenon in a society that reads from left to right? Not

very, correct? Okay, then can someone explain to me the logic and intelligence of a man who demands a brand new flat-screen, wide-screen, plasma, digital this-that-and-the-other television simply because the picture tube in his own twenty-seven inch, fully functional TV, is cocked one shade too far to the left, thereby obscuring the receding edge of the information tidal wave known as the ticker? There is no rational reason to replace such a TV. I interrupt this article for a correction, through recent email correspondence I have discovered that the bottom right corner is also somewhat obstructed, never mind apparently that at least twenty inches of readable ticker are available at dead center at all

times. Whatever, the TV is good, the ticker is readable.

In fact, ESPN has mastered the ticker revolution, perhaps better than any other network. I submit for your approval: *Around the Horn* and *PTI* (*Pardon the Interruption*). I have mentioned my affinity for these shows in the past, but they truly have taken the ticker to new levels. Each show has a running ticker, though *PTI*'s cruises vertically and not horizontally, gotta change things up every once in a while. Though such ticker saturation is an improvement in that you know exactly what is coming, you also have to wade through twenty minutes of mind-numbing crap about athletes and teams you don't like to finally arrive on

yours, and then they go to commercial, and then when they come back, the information and discourse you've been waiting for, becomes a footnote to some commentator's personal athletic agenda. You're left with nothing. Disembodied Voice has let you down once again. (Is Disembodied Voice still on *Around the Horn*? I don't even know anymore, couldn't see through all that snow, quit trying, had to move on with my life. Though I do recall Disembodied Voice was essentially a Max Kellerman original, I'm not sure what kind of rights Stat Boy has . . . and that would be case-in-point. I started writing an article about the ticker and how I only wanted such and such

information, I finally got to the meat of my argument, and I got distracted. I apologize.) Moving on . . . or not, I really have nothing else to say (slow week). But to quote the man who demands a brand new television, "I like the ticker, as it keeps the simple ADD-ridden minds of men preoccupied enough to actually keep them glued to a show for more than 30 seconds." True story.

Thanks to Ernest and his channel juggling, ESPN and ESPN2 are clear once again!!! (And to all aspiring meteorologists and those that love a good fight in Parliament on C-SPAN, too bad.)

Strangely enough...

Strange pictures from around campus - things that you're not likely to see every day.



From A Doll's House: At left, seniors Jessica Harris and Chris Moran find time to boogie before the closing night of the play. At right, stage manager B.J. Houlding naps between scenes. Evidently, B.J. also thought that "A Doll's House" meant he was to bring his favorite American Girl Doll. At the far right, senior Jean Monfort fixes an earring before her entrance onstage.



Daycare at Connor Prairie? Nope - Samantha, Megan, and Patrick Massoels wait for curtain call backstage during *A Doll's House* while Marcie Keyes looks on.

Sssssssssso....I hear ssssssssssnakeskin is in this year.

Freshman Sarah Osterfeld checks out an albino python at a petting zoo in Halleck Center. The event was part of Little Sibs Weekend, and featured sheep, lambs, goats, geese, parrots, a tarantula, two-inch cockroaches, and an alligator.



Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for Feb 10 - Feb 16
(219) 866-2222

www.fountainstonetheaters.com

Pink Panther

Fri: 5:10, 6:50, 8:30 (PG)
Sat: 3:30, 5:10, 6:50, 8:30
Sun: 3:30, 5:10, 6:50
Mon-Th: 5:10, 6:50

Firewall

Fri: 5:15, 7:10, 9:05 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05
Sun: 3:20, 5:15, 7:10
Mon-Th: 5:15, 7:10

When a Stranger Calls

Fri: 5:30, 7:30, 9:10 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:40, 5:30, 7:30, 9:10
Sun: 3:40, 5:30, 7:30
Mon-Th: 5:30, 7:30

Final Destination

Fri: 5:40, 7:20, 9:00 (R)
Sat: 3:50, 5:40, 7:20, 9:00
Sun: 3:50, 5:40, 7:20
Mon-Th: 5:40, 7:20

Big Momma's House 2

Fri: 5:10, 7:00, 8:50 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:50
Sun: 3:10, 5:10, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:00

What's Your Sign?

Divined by our own Auntie Cleo

being so nitpicky with the one you love.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)

Love is in the air everywhere. You feel like you are the only one not struck by an arrow from cupid. Stop gagging from all the sickening relationships around you. Who needs a Valentine when you can treat yourself to something you have been craving?

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)

Life has been a rollercoaster lately. Take time for yourself and find what makes you happy. If you have a significant other, plan a Valentine getaway to Merrillville or Lafayette. If you are single, hangout with your girls or guys; you will have a great time.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Are you not feeling Valentine's Day? Then let your true feelings shine through. On the 14th dress in all black and make a statement. Plan a scary movie marathon. No one wants to watch a lovey-dovey chick flick when he or she is lonely.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)

You have a secret admirer and it is someone you would never suspect. Do not be surprised if you receive something sweet on Valentine's Day from this mystery person. If you play

by the rules, you may figure out who this smitten kitten is.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)

It is obvious you have a major crush. This is the month to act on it. Stop being such a scaredy-cat and act on your emotions. Surprise your crush with his or her favorite candy, flowers, or stuffed animal. Be brave; rejection would not be the end of the world. (At least you know you tried.)

Cancer (June 21-July 21)

It is not the amount of money you spend on the one you love, but the amount of time you spend with him or her. Stop worrying about the price of his or her Valentine gift and plan something from the heart. Creative gifts outweigh any amount of money spent.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)

Stop fighting with the one you love. Take the time to show how much you love him or her. Remember, actions speak louder than words. It is time you put your friends on the back burner and give your love the attention he or she deserves.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)

Creativity is your advantage. Take the time to surprise all the people you love with a handmade Valentine. Spread the love. Do for others and others will do for you. Stop

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)

"All you need is love." So start loving those around you. Stop being such a Grumpy Gus. How are you ever going to find marriage material on this campus when you act like you hate the world? Get rid of your negative attitude and take the positive approach to life.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Stop being such a player. Leading people on is only going to bite you in the bottom. They are bound to find out about each other and then you will be left with no one. Playing the field is not happiness.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)

Your name is not Cupid, so stop playing matchmaker. You are trying to hook up complete opposites. Worry about your own love life for a while and let your friends take care of themselves.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

Romance is your middle name. For Valentine's Day surprise the one you love with a picnic for two in your room. Write him or her a little love poem or burn a CD of favorite songs. You will have your significant other eating out of the palm of your hand by the end of the night.

Overheard

Hear something absurd or ridiculous lately? Want to embarrass your friends?

Well, all randomly heard comments are anonymous, but feel free to e-mail what you have overheard to your Omega editors at dwj5079@saintjoe.edu.

Most of this week's overheard comments involve sex, Kairos, and for some strange reason, ethnicity. Enjoy!

I certainly hope you go on Kairos and come back a changed woman, because I don't want to deal with you like *this*.

~
She's like a flesh-eating bacteria.

~
Kairos turned you into a bitch.

~
He's a guy. They like to measure things.

~
Ah, West Side Story. The only place where a plie can kill or maim.

~
You're cruel. You go straight for the pupils.

~
It's not like some cosmic prizefight between you and God for his immortal soul.

~
If your plans involve singing anything from *Into the Woods* or *Cinderella*, you can go away.

~
Yes, I'm molesting your walrus.

~
Boy, I have a whole new level of respect for that man.

~
I need to quit hanging out with you, or I'll become a chain-smoking, sex-addicted alcoholic too.

~
Boy, I'll have to connect Mozart and sex more often from now on.

~
I'm actually more German than Arabic, so...whatever.

~
My ancestry? I'm half German, half Danish, which makes me viciously indecisive.

~
I've got ancestors from everywhere on the Iberian peninsula. Except Spain.

~
I like people medium-well and also rare.

~
You see, I told you the Steelers were going to win the Superbowl, and you just thought I was a crazy old man.